

IN THE CLAIMS

1.(Amended) A computerized method for matching potential clients with professional services providers which meet their personalized criteria and are interested in providing particular services to them, said method comprising the steps of:

presenting a first electronic document [including a plurality of data entry devices] to said potential clients via a computer network;

receiving data entered by said potential clients using said first electronic document [data entry devices], said received data being indicative of said criteria;

automatically comparing said received data to data stored in a storage medium to identify one or more suitable professional services providers based upon said criteria;

notifying said potential clients of said one or more suitable providers;

receiving an indication of one or more selected service providers, said selected providers being selected from among said one or more suitable providers;

automatically generating and transmitting an electronic mail message to said [identified] one or more selected service providers via said computer network, said electronic mail message including information indicative of a portion of said received data; and,

receiving a response from at least one responding one of said one or more [identified] selected service providers, and automatically providing information indicative of another portion of said received data to each said responding one of said service providers.

3.(Amended) The [device] method of claim 2, wherein said computerized network includes a global interconnection of computers and computer networks.

14.(Amended) A system for matching potential clients with professional services providers which meet their personalized criteria and are interested in providing particular services to them comprising:

at least one server being communicable via a computer network;

an application executed by said at least one server;

a storage medium accessible by both said application and server; and,

a plurality of suitable microprocessor based devices being communicable with said at least one server via said computer network;

wherein, said application is responsive to requests received by said at least one server from at least one of said suitable microprocessor based devices to present at least one electronic document [including a plurality of data entry devices] to said microprocessor based devices via said computer network;

wherein, said server receives data entered using said at least one electronic document [data entry devices and stores said data in said storage medium], said received data being indicative of said criteria;

wherein said application automatically compares said received data to [said stored data] service provider data stored in said storage medium to identify one or more suitable professional services providers;

wherein said application notifies said potential clients of said one or more suitable providers;

wherein said application receives an indication of one or more selected service providers, said selected providers being selected from among said one or more suitable providers;

wherein said application automatically generates and transmits via said computer network an electronic mail message to said [identified] one or more selected service providers,

said electronic mail message including information indicative of a portion of said received data; and,

wherein when said server receives a response from at least one responding one of said one or more [identified] selected service providers, said application automatically provides information indicative of another portion of said received data to said responding one of said service providers via said computer network.

21.(Amended) A system for matching potential clients with professional services providers which meet their personalized criteria and are interested in providing particular legal services to them comprising:

at least one server being communicable via a computer network;

an application executed by said at least one server;

a storage medium accessible by both said application and server; and,

a plurality of suitable microprocessor based devices being communicable with said at least one server via said computer network;

wherein said application is responsive to requests received by said at least one server from at least one of said suitable microprocessor based devices to present at least one electronic document [including a plurality of data entry devices] to said microprocessor based devices via said computer network;

wherein said server receives data entered using said at least one electronic document [data entry devices] and stores said data in said storage medium, said received data being indicative of said criteria;

wherein said application [automatically] periodically compares said received data to [said stored data] service provider data stored in said storage medium to identify one or more suitable professional services providers;

wherein [after a given time period,] said application [selectively automatically] periodically generates and transmits via said computer network an electronic mail message to said identified one or more service providers, said electronic mail message including information indicative of a portion of said received data; and,

wherein when said server receives a response from at least one responding one of said one or more identified service providers, said application automatically provides information indicative of another portion of said received data to said responding one of said service providers via said computer network.

22. (new) A computerized method for matching potential clients with professional services providers that meet their personalized criteria and are interested in providing particular services to them, said method comprising:

presenting a first electronic document to said potential clients via a computer network; and receiving data entered by said potential clients using said first electronic document, said received data being indicative of said criteria;

automatically comparing said received data to data stored in a storage medium to identify one or more suitable professional services providers based upon said criteria;

notifying said potential clients of said one or more suitable providers;

receiving an indication of one or more selected service providers, said selected providers being selected from among said one or more suitable service providers;

automatically generating and transmitting an electronic mail message to said one or more selected professional services providers via said computer network, said electronic mail message including information indicative of a portion of said received data; and,

receiving a response from at least one responding one of said one or more selected professional services providers, and providing information indicative of another portion of said received data to each said responding one of said professional services providers.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein said first electronic document includes Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) information.

24. (new) The device of claim 23, wherein said computerized network includes a global interconnection of computers and computer networks.

25. (new) The method of claim 24, wherein said received data was entered using a commercially available browser software package.

26. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising checking said received data to confirm it is in a proper format.

27. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising storing data indicative of said plurality of professional services providers on said storage medium.

28. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising automatically storing said received data on said storage medium.

29. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said received data includes information indicative of information selected from the group consisting of a professional services provider size, a professional services provider specialty, a location of professional services to be provided, an estimated budget for professional services to be provided and a general description of professional services to be provided.

30. (new) The method of claim 29, further comprising assigning a unique identifier to each of said received data.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein said received data and unique number are stored in a record.

32. (new) The method of claim 31, wherein said unique number is included in said electronic mail message.

33. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein said comparing comprises periodically querying said storage medium.

34. (new) The method of claim 22, wherein said professional services are legal services.